

The Vergennes Shipyard



Commodore Macdonough's Fleet

Under the leadership of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough, nine boats were built in Vergennes for the War of 1812. These boats were vital to the American victory over the British Royal Navy at the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay. Macdonough's fleet included the 26-gun *Saratoga* (his flagship), the 17-gun schooner *Ticonderoga*, the 20-gun brig *Eagle*, and six 75-foot gunboats. All of the vessels were supplied with lumber, fittings, and shot from the sawmill, forges, and furnaces located at the Otter Creek Falls.



American and British ships at the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay.



The Victor (1897) leaving for a Sunday excursion from the Daniels landing.



The Industrial Age on Otter Creek - Vergennes Falls c. 1871.

Steamboats of Vergennes

Captain Jahaziel Sherman and the Lake Champlain Steamboat Company built four of the lake's earliest steamboats in industrial Vergennes. *Phoenix* (1815), *Champlain* (1816), *Congress* (1818), and *Phoenix II* (1820) transported passengers and freight to ports along the lake.

From 1877 to 1916, the Daniels Family Steamship Line offered passenger and freight service. Philomène Daniels became the first licensed female steamboat pilot in the world; Captain "Phil" was famous for her piloting skills, her no-nonsense attitude, and her elegant dresses and hats.